

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A morcellator, comprising:

(a) a rotatable electrode at least partially housed in an outer sheath, having a resistance to a flow of an electrical current, and being heatable by the flow of the current through the rotatable electrode; and

(b) a drive system for rotating the rotatable electrode as the rotatable electrode is heated by the flow of the current; and

(c) a tissue guider moveable with respect to the outer sheath for directing a tissue segment to the rotatable electrode for morcellation.

Claim 2 (original): The morcellator of claim 1 further comprising a source of the electrical current, the source being couplable to the rotatable electrode.

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): The morcellator of claim ~~3~~1 further comprising a vacuum source couplable to the outer sheath to provide suction.

Claim 5 (original): The morcellator of claim 2 wherein the source generates a voltage of substantially greater than thirty volts and substantially less than sixty volts.

Claim 6 (original): The morcellator of claim 2 wherein the source supplies the electrical current to the electrode so that the electrode is maintained at a temperature sufficient to comminute tissue.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): The morcellator of claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1 wherein a proximal end of the tissue guider comprises a loop.

Claim 9 (original): The morcellator of claim 1 wherein the drive system comprises a motor.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The morcellator of claim 2 further comprising a commutator coupling the electrode, the source, and the ~~rotatable~~-drive system to allow simultaneous heating and rotation of the electrode.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The morcellator of claim 7 further comprising a tissue guider controller coupled to the tissue guider to enable the guider to direct tissue to the rotatable electrode at a predetermined rate.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The morcellator of claim 11 wherein the guider controller comprises a spring.

Claim 13 (original): The morcellator of claim 4 further comprising a catch container coupled to the vacuum source.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The morcellator of claim ~~3~~-1 further comprising a fluid source couplable to the outer sheath to provide irrigation fluid.

Claim 15 (original): The morcellator of claim 1 further comprising an electrode interface circuit coupled to the electrode to provide information about a voltage drop across and the flow of the current through the rotatable electrode.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A method of morcellating tissue, comprising:

(a) heating a rotatable electrode having a resistance to a flow of an electrical current by the flow of the current through the rotatable electrode; and

(b) rotating the rotatable electrode as the rotatable electrode is heated by a flow of the current to comminute tissue.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The method of claim 16 further comprising generating a current of substantially greater than one amp and substantially less than four amps.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method of claim 16 further comprising removing comminuted tissue.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method of claim 18 further comprising using irrigation fluid to remove comminuted tissue.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method of claim 16 further comprising directing the tissue to the rotatable electrode to comminute the tissue.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method of claim 20 further comprising directing the tissue to the rotatable electrode at a controlled rate.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method of claim 16 further comprising providing information about a voltage drop across and the flow of the current through the rotatable electrode.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The method of claim 16 further comprises applying a voltage of substantially greater than thirty volts and substantially less than sixty volts to the rotatable electrode.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The method of claim 16 further comprising maintaining the electrode at a sufficient temperature to comminute tissue.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The method of claim 16 further comprising coupling the electrode with a source of electrical current and a rotatable drive system so that the electrode can be heated and rotated simultaneously.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A morcellator, comprising:

(a) means for heating a rotatable electrode having a resistance to a flow of an electrical current by the flow of the current, the rotatable electrode being at least partially housed in an outer sheath; and

(b) means for rotating the rotatable electrode as the rotatable electrode is heated by the flow of the current; and

(c) means, moveable with respect to the outer sheath, for directing a tissue segment to the rotatable electrode for morcellation.